

## **RECOVERY FUNDS AT WORK IN OHIO'S SIXTH DISTRICT**

### **Wilson Announces NIH and EPA Recovery Funds**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) is pleased to announce that Ohio is receiving funding for two separate projects as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Ohio University is set to receive more than \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a medical research project. The state of Ohio will also receive more than \$8 million from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fix underground petroleum leaks.

#### **MEDICAL RESEARCH**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Ohio University's Dr. Ellengene H. Peterson will receive an administrative supplement of \$311,309 for a research project entitled, "Mechanisms of Signaling in Otoconial Organs." The funds will be administered by the National Institute of Health (NIH.)

The project is a multi-disciplinary effort involving neuroscientists, engineers, physicists, and behavioral biologists to research the vestibular (balance) system of the inner ear, a system which is vital for maintaining stable posture and clear vision. The project's long-term goal is to contribute to the diagnosis and treatment of vestibular disorders, such as dizziness and vertigo.

"These disorders are a common cause of physician visits, especially among the elderly," said Dr. Peterson, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. "They can be very disabling, and so they are a significant medical, social, and financial concern."

The National Institute of Health (NIH) funds biomedical research and research training at more than 3,000 institutions in the fifty states and territories. The administrative supplement being awarded here will fund four new positions with Dr. Peterson's team, thus accelerating the pace of achievement.

"I am so pleased that Dr. Peterson and her colleagues can continue their great work at Ohio

University,” Wilson said. “Not only will this funding create four new jobs, but it brings us much closer to finding treatments for these debilitating disorders.”

#### **CLEAN WATER**

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio will receive more than \$8 million for regional underground storage tank programs.

The funds will be used for overseeing the assessment and cleanup of leaks from underground storage tanks. These hazardous leaks seep into soil and contaminate groundwater, the primary source of drinking water for nearly one-third of all Americans.

“Again, I’m so pleased these Recovery funds are going to projects that not only create jobs, but also to those that protect the health and wellbeing of our communities,” Wilson said. “Making sure our drinking water is free from dangerous toxins should always be a priority.”

Wilson voted for the Recovery Act, which was signed into law in February, 2009.